MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS STANLEY A. WITZEL

Professor Emeritus Stanley A. Witzel, Sr. passed away December 20, 1999. Professor Witzel served on the faculty of the Agricultural Engineering Department for over 40 years, prior to his retirement in 1972. His primary teaching and research responsibilities were in the agricultural structures and soil and water engineering. Highlights of Professor’s Witzel’s contributions to Wisconsin agriculture include his leadership of the Dairy Housing Research Project and, later, the Quality Milk Research Project.

The Dairy Housing Research Project was an interdisciplinary project devoted to improving dairy cattle housing facilities. Basic research on elevated milking parlors led to their development into modern dairy facilities.

The Quality Milk Research Project was also an interdisciplinary study that cooperated with milk regulatory agencies to determine the feasibility of on-farm cleaned-in-place milk pipelines and bulk milk cooling for the production of high quality milk. These practices are now universally accepted and have greatly increased the efficiency of on-farm milk production.

Professor Witzel was one of the founders of the Midwest Plan Service (MWPS). The plan service became the most successful regional plan service in the country in providing low cost farm building plans. During his tenure as chair of the Dairy Housing Subcommittee of the MWPS, he helped produce publications that resulted in a distribution in excess of 100,000 copies and led to significant improvements in dairy cattle housing throughout the world.

Professor Witzel was responsible for the design of many agricultural structures on the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Stations during his tenure on the faculty. In addition, he spent three years in Ibadan, Nigeria where he helped to establish the Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of IFE. He had a major impact on staffing and curriculum development and construction of the agricultural engineering building at the University of IFE.

In 1972, Professor Witzel was presented with the Cyrus Hall McCormick Award by the American Society of Agricultural Engineering for his outstanding service to agriculture. In 1983, the American Academy of Achievement honored him with the Golden Plate Award.

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